

## Introduction

The Zambia Health and Wellbeing Survey (H-Well), also known as Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), is the first national survey of violence against children in Zambia. The survey systematically measures the prevalence, nature and consequences of sexual, physical and emotional violence against children. It enhances the country's capacity to design, implement, and evaluate violence prevention and response programs and build successful child protection systems.

## Objectives

### The key objectives of H-Well are to:

- Estimate the national prevalence of sexual, physical and emotional violence perpetrated against boys and girls;
- Identify risk and protective factors for physical, emotional and sexual violence against children;
- Identify the health and social consequences associated with violence against children;
- Assess the knowledge and utilization of medical, psychosocial, legal, and protective services available for children who have experienced sexual, emotional and physical violence;
- Make recommendations to relevant ministries in Zambia, UN agencies, International and National Non-governmental Organizations on developing, improving, enhancing prevention and response strategies to address violence against children as part of a larger, comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to child protection; and
- Identify areas for further research.

## Partners

The H-Well Survey was a multi sectoral undertaking involving in country and international partners.

**In Country:** H-Well was a Government of Zambia survey led by Ministry of Gender and Child Development (MGCD) in collaboration with Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH), Central Statistical Office (CSO), the University of Zambia, Department of Population Studies (UNZA\_DPS), United Nations Children's Fund in Zambia (UNICEF) and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Zambia.

**International:** UNICEF HQ, CDC-Atlanta and Save the Children International (SCI).

## Process

**Study Development & Implementation:** A Multi-Sectoral Task Force including government and civil society guided the development of the study to be responsive and relevant to programmatic and policy goals. The University of Zambia Biomedical Research and Ethics Committee (UNZABREC) and CDC's Institutional Review Board (IRB) independently reviewed and approved the study. CDC provided technical assistance to implement the study and has supported the review of the study findings. CSO and UNZA\_DPS implemented the study.

**Data Analysis & Dissemination:** CSO and UNZA\_DPS provided technical assistance for the quality control of data collection and data cleaning. CDC-Atlanta was responsible for statistical weighting of the data and analyses. MGCD, MCDMCH, CSO, UNZA\_DPS, CDC, SCI and UNICEF are collaborating on writing and producing the final report, data dissemination and follow-up action plan, which will be released in 2016.

## Methodology & Response Rate

H-Well uses a standardized methodology for measuring sexual, physical and emotional violence against children. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative estimates of violence against children in Zambia; this did not allow for sub-geographic estimates, such as provincial or rural/urban. The primary purpose of the survey is to estimate the (1) lifetime prevalence of childhood violence, defined as violence occurring before 18 years of age and (2) prevalence of childhood violence in the 12 months prior to the survey among 13 to 17 year olds. It includes a questionnaire for an adult knowledgeable in household goods in the household to build rapport with the family and to determine current socioeconomic status of the household and also includes a respondent questionnaire for 13 to 24 year olds, which includes the following topics: demographics; socioeconomic status; parental relations; education; general connectedness to family, friends, and community; marital status; sexual behavior and practices; sex in exchange for money or goods; pregnancy; HIV/AIDS knowledge and testing behavior; experiences of physical, emotional, and sexual violence; health outcomes associated with exposure to violence; disclosure of violence; and utilization and barriers to services. There were a total of 1,819 completed interviews: 891 females with an overall response rate of 80.9% and 928 males with overall response rate of 80.8%. The overall response rate is calculated by multiplying the individual responses rate by the household response rate. At an individual level, response rates were 86.8% for females and 85.6% for males, and a household response rate of 93.3% for females and 94.4% for males, reflecting a strong survey design, well-trained interview staff, and a national willingness to participate. A key limitation of this study is that it may underestimate prevalence based on self-reported violence. Previous research suggests that it is not uncommon for adults who have experienced abuse in their childhood to have no memory of that abuse, particularly when that abuse occurred at a young age and by someone well known to the victim.



Republic of Zambia

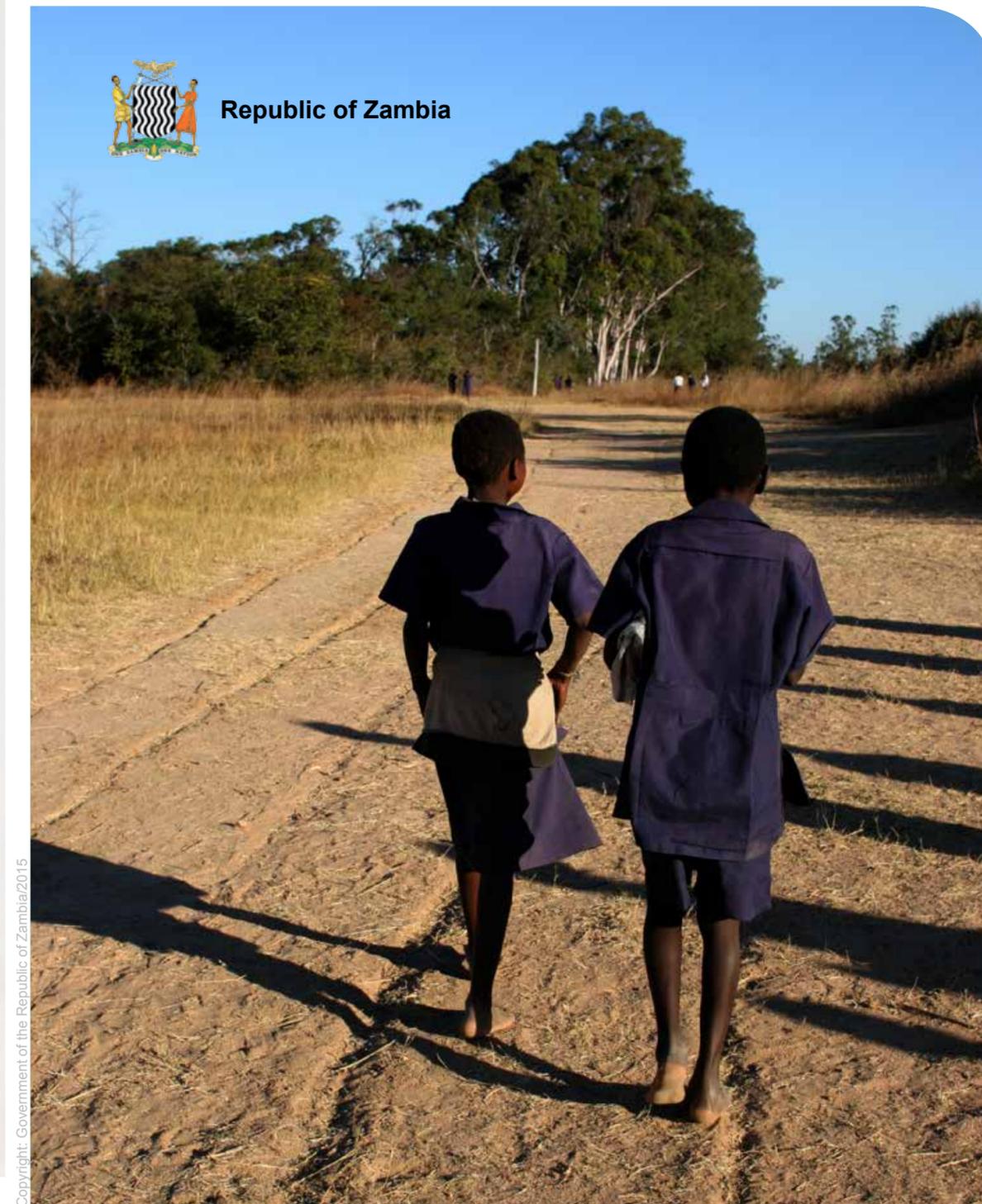


The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of any partner agency



Republic of Zambia

Copyright: Government of the Republic of Zambia/2015



**POLICY BRIEF**

ZAMBIA HEALTH & WELLBEING SURVEY (H-WELL) 2014

# Zambia H-Well Data Highlights

## Key Demographic Characteristics

- Never attended school: 3.9% of females and 5.1% of males aged 13-24 years
- Currently attending school: 76.5% of females and 81.3% of males aged 13-17 years
- Among those not in school, those who completed less than primary school: 4.3% of females and 3.9% of males aged 13-24 years
- Orphaned (double orphan) prior to age 18: 5.1% of females and 4.6% of males aged 13-24 years
- Orphaned (single orphan) prior to age 18: 22.8% of females and 18.8% of males aged 13-24 years

## Sexual Violence

### Experiences of sexual violence reported by 18-24 year olds:

- Any sexual abuse\* prior to age 18: 20.3% of females and 10.0% of males
- Physically forced or pressured sex prior to age 18: 12.1% of females and 3.8% of males
- Unwanted sexual touching prior to 18: 8.0% of females and 4.1% of males
- Unwanted attempted sex prior to 18: 8.1% of females and 5.0% of males
- Described their first sexual intercourse prior to age 18 as unwanted: 26.2% of females and 5.6% of males

### Experiences of sexual violence reported by 13-17 year olds:

- Any sexual abuse\* in the past 12 months: 16.6% of females and 5.6% of males
- Experiencing any unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months: 10.5% of females and 4.2% of males
- Experiencing any unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months: 9.7% of females and 1.7% of males
- Experiencing any physically forced or pressured sex in the past 12 months: 2.2% of females and 0.0% of males
- First experience of sexual intercourse was unwanted among participants who have had sex: 28.3% of females and 6.8% of males

### Services for Children Who Experienced Sexual Violence:

- Reported receiving services for any incident of sexual abuse\* occurring prior to age 18: 0% of females and 7.2% of males
- Reported receiving services for any incident of sexual abuse\* that occurred in the past 12 months: 2.6% of females and \*\* of males 13-17 years of age
- HIV Testing among those who had experienced sexual abuse\* prior to age 18: 58.9% of females and 41.9% of males 13-24 years of age
- Any sexual abuse\* prior to age 18 and know where to get an HIV test: 82.9% of females and 85.2% of males 13-24 years of age

\* Sexual Abuse indicators include: 1) Unwanted Sexual Touching, 2) Attempted Forced Sex (sex did not happen), 3) Forced Sex, and 4) Pressured Sex

- Unwanted Sexual Touching: Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and force you to have sex? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts.
- Unwanted Attempted Sex: Has anyone ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?
- Physically Forced Sex: Has anyone ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
- Pressured Sex: Has anyone ever pressured you to have sex, through harassment, threats or tricks and did succeed?

\*\* Insufficient cell size

## Physical Violence

### Experiences of physical violence reported by 18-24 year olds:

- Any physical violence\* prior to age 18: 33.8% of females and 40.1% of males
- Physical violence\* by a parent(s), adult caregivers or other adult relatives prior to age 18: 27.0% of females and 29.1% of males
- Physical violence\* by adults in the community prior to age 18: 8.3% of females and 9.4% of males
- Physical violence\* by an intimate partner prior to age 18: 6.1% of females and 2.7% of males
- Physical violence\* by a peer prior to age 18: 3.7% of females and 18.6% of males

### Experiences of physical violence reported by 13-17 year olds:

- Physical violence\* among 13-17 year olds in the last 12 month: 27.7% of females and 27.5% of males
- Physical violence\* among 13-17 year olds by a parent(s), adult caregivers or other adult relatives in the last 12 months: 14.3% of females and 11.3% of males
- Physical violence\* among 13-17 year olds by adults in the community in the last 12 months : 12.0% of females and 12.2% of males
- Physical violence\* among 13-17 year olds by an intimate partner in the last 12 months: 4.4% of females and 1.2% of males
- Physical violence\* among 13-17 year olds by a peer in the last 12 months: 7.7% of females and 10.8% of males

### Witnessing of physical violence reported by 18-24 year olds:

- Witnessing any physical violence in the home prior to age 18: 51.3% of females and 49.0% of males
- Witnessing any physical violence (someone getting attacked) outside home and family environment prior to age 18: 41.4% of females and 35.4% of males

### Witnessing of physical violence reported by 13-17 year olds:

- Witnessing any physical violence in the home in the last 12 months among 13-17 year olds: 25.7% of females and 20.3% of males
- Witnessing any physical violence (someone getting attacked) outside of the home and family environment in the last 12 months among 13-17 year olds: 24.4% of females and 20.6% of males

### Services for Children Who Experienced Physical Violence

- Reported receiving services for any incident of physical violence among the 18-24 year olds occurring prior to age 18: 5.2% of females and 4.3% of males
- Reported receiving services for any incident of physical violence among the 13-17 year olds in the last 12 months: 9.4% of females and 1.5% of males

\*Physical Violence indicators include: 1) Punching, kicking, whipping, or beating with an object 2) Choking, suffocating, trying to drown, or burning intentionally, and 3) Using or threatening with a knife, gun or other weapon

## Emotional Violence

### Experiences of Emotional Violence:

- Emotional violence\* by a parent or caregiver prior to age 18 reported by 18-24 year olds: 15.9% of females and 20.0% of males
- Emotional violence\* by a parent or caregiver in the past 12 months reported by 13-17 year olds: 17.7% of females and 12.5% of males

\* Emotional Violence indicators include: 1) Being told they were not loved, or did not deserve to be loved 2) Being told someone wished they had never been born or were dead, and 3) Being ridiculed or put down, for example being told they were stupid or useless

